



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
**VETERANS' AFFAIRS**  
*Chairman Phil Roe, M.D.*

**H.R. 3940: The Veterans Education Disaster Assistance Act**

**Background:**

As a result of recent natural disasters, many schools across the country have been forced to close for an extended period of time. This has resulted in many student veterans to be displaced in the middle of their school term. Many of these students then choose to pursue online classes. Unfortunately, veterans who are forced to attend distance education classes, as opposed to an in-person education, are only eligible for half of the available living allowance payments, which may leave them unable to pay their rent and bills.

The Veterans Education Disaster Assistance Act would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to issue additional housing stipends and supply fee payment waivers to individuals that are forced to enroll in a distance education due to a natural disaster.

**The Message:**

- Veterans who enroll in a distance education program because of a natural disaster are only eligible for half of the available living allowance payments for their education benefits.
- The Veterans Education Disaster Assistance Act would authorize additional stipends to individuals who pursue online education after being displaced by a natural disaster.
- This bipartisan legislation would ensure veterans have continuity of education as they work to better their futures.